

Program A: Property Taxation Regulatory/Oversight

Program Authorization: La. Constitution, Article VII, Section 18; R.S. 47:1831-1837.

Program Description

The Property Taxation Regulatory/Oversight Program is responsible for the administrative activities of the Louisiana Tax Commission (LTC), thereby, managing the fiscal and business affairs of the commission to assure compliance with all statutes relative to the duties and responsibilities of the commission. Through the Property Taxation Regulatory/Oversight Program, the commission conducts public hearings concerning appeals from taxpayers, assessors or tax recipient bodies. The commission also determines the tax assessment of all public service properties, insurance companies, and banks. Ratio studies are completed in all parishes or districts on an annual basis to insure uniformity of tax assessments. Random audits are conducted throughout the year by the audit staff as well as the public service division. Through the review of assessments, the commission will certify the assessment rolls and process all change orders submitted by the local assessors. The Property Taxation Regulatory/Oversight Program in the Louisiana Tax Commission is composed of the following activities: Administrative, Appraisal, Public Service and Audit. The mission and goals for the Property Taxation Regulatory/Oversight Program are broken down by activity. The mission of the Administrative subprogram is to manage fiscal and business affairs of the Louisiana Tax Commission and to offer leadership and guidance to other subprograms. The subprogram is also charged with hearing and deciding appeals of property valuations and clarifications. The goals of the Administrative program are: (1) to ensure compliance with all statutes relative to the duties and responsibilities of LTC; (2) to improve the image of the LTC; and (3) to promote the highest degree of voluntary compliance. The mission of the Appraisal activity is to oversee the uniformity and accuracy of assessed values of parish assessing offices. We also provide local assessor assistance when requested. The goal of the Appraisal activity is to ensure assessment uniformity and accuracy, we will improve the quality of ratio studies and other appraisals performed as well as reduce the percentage of time currently allocated for these studies. The mission of the Public Service and Audit activity is twofold. First, Public Service Section is to fairly and uniformly appraise and certify assessments of all public utility property in the State of Louisiana and to ensure compliance with Louisiana tax laws and policy with a comprehensive audit program. Second, the Personal Property Audit Section is to ensure that personal property and inventory reported to each assessor district is correct, uniform and consistent with Tax Commission rules and regulations. The goals of the Public Service and Audit activities are; (1) to certify all public utility property annually and render these assessments to each parish by September 1; and (2) to ensure Louisiana Tax Commission rules and regulations are correctly applied in the determination of fair market value of public service property and administer an ongoing audit program of all personal and public service property.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACT 12 2001-2002	EXISTING 2001-2002	CONTINUATION 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED 2002-2003	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$1,719,035	\$1,878,659	\$1,878,659	\$1,915,933	\$2,029,193	\$150,534
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	510,913	510,913	430,000	(80,913)
Statutory Dedications	628,593	510,913	0	31,118	31,118	31,118
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$2,347,628	\$2,389,572	\$2,389,572	\$2,457,964	\$2,490,311	\$100,739
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Salaries	\$1,479,486	\$1,577,537	\$1,566,917	\$1,588,284	\$1,529,066	(\$37,851)
Other Compensation	869	0	10,620	10,620	10,620	0
Related Benefits	292,709	280,387	280,387	349,828	306,139	25,752
Total Operating Expenses	260,402	299,352	299,352	293,656	290,145	(9,207)
Professional Services	271,113	202,983	202,983	202,983	327,500	124,517
Total Other Charges	6,137	5,323	5,323	12,593	26,841	21,518
Total Acq. & Major Repairs	36,912	23,990	23,990	0	0	(23,990)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$2,347,628	\$2,389,572	\$2,389,572	\$2,457,964	\$2,490,311	\$100,739
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	30	32	32	32	31	(1)
Unclassified	4	4	4	4	4	0
TOTAL	34	36	36	36	35	(1)

SOURCE OF FUNDING

This program is funded from State General Fund Direct, Fees and Self-generated Revenues, and Statutory Dedications. The Fees and Self-generated Revenues are derived from fees assessed for audits and appraisals of public service properties, banking institutions, and insurance companies. The Statutory Dedications are from the Deficit Elimination/Capital Outlay Escrow Replenishment Fund (Per R.S.39:137) (Per R.S. 39:36B.(8), see table below for a listing of expenditures out of each Statutory Dedicated fund).

	ACTUAL	ACT 12	EXISTING	CONTINUATION	RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	OVER/(UNDER)
						EXISTING
La. Tax Commission Expense Fund	\$628,593	\$510,913	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Deficit Elimination Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,118	\$31,118	\$31,118

MAJOR FINANCIAL CHANGES

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$1,878,659	\$2,389,572	36	ACT 12 FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002
			BA-7 TRANSACTIONS:
\$0	\$0	0	Means of Finance Substitution - Replace \$560,913 in Statutory Dedications - LA Tax Commission Expense Fund as Fees and Self-generated Revenue to reclassify fees collected per Act 1182 of the 2001 Regular Session.
\$1,878,659	\$2,389,572	36	EXISTING OPERATING BUDGET - December 20, 2001
\$24,007	\$24,007	0	Annualization of FY 2001-2002 Classified State Employees Merit Increase
\$20,876	\$20,876	0	Classified State Employees Merit Increases for FY 2002-2003
(\$5,611)	(\$5,611)	0	Risk Management Adjustment
(\$23,990)	(\$23,990)	0	Non-Recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
(\$20,428)	(\$20,428)	0	Salary Base Adjustment
(\$36,356)	(\$36,356)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$31,118	0	Group Insurance Adjustment
(\$32,089)	(\$32,089)	(1)	Gubernatorial Personnel Reduction
\$18,419	\$18,419	0	Funding provided for computer maintenance for maintaining computer network
\$144,517	\$144,517	0	Funding provided for an increase in legal fees for professional services contracts with attorneys who represents the department on legal issues
(\$358)	(\$358)	0	Civil Service Fees
\$773	\$773	0	Adjustment to travel
\$0	(\$80,913)	0	Reduce operating services expenditures to actual projected revenue collections for FY 2003
\$60,774	\$60,774	0	Funding provided for rent expenses for FY 2003
\$2,029,193	\$2,490,311	35	TOTAL RECOMMENDED

MAJOR FINANCIAL CHANGES

GENERAL FUND	TOTAL	T.O.	DESCRIPTION
\$0	\$0	0	LESS GOVERNOR'S SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
\$2,029,193	\$2,490,311	35	BASE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003
			SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE:
\$0	\$0	0	None
\$0	\$0	0	TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINGENT ON NEW REVENUE
\$2,029,193	\$2,490,311	35	GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

\$327,500 Legal and technical appraisal services including rendering opinions, drafting legislation, establishing and advising the Tax Commission with respect to the procedure and conducting of public hearings and tax appeal hearings, representing the commission in court in instances where the Attorney General is unable to do so and for assistance in litigation.

\$327,500 TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

OTHER CHARGES

\$4,552	Civil Services Fees
\$413	Comprehensive Public Training Program Expenses
\$7,270	Risk Management
\$14,606	OTM Fees
\$26,841	TOTAL OTHER CHARGES

ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS

This program does not have funding for Acquisitions and Major Repairs for Fiscal Year 2002-2003.